Beat: Local

San Francisco Homeless Crises, what happens after APEC?

Working Pro Immigrants

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USPA NEWS - As the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit ends, San Francisco city's homelessness crisis comes back to a focal point highlighting the stark contrasts between economic prosperity and the struggles of those left behind.

How long will Mayor London Breed keep the city clean? Why does the city just take action when a bunch of important people that don't even live in the city, - and they staying for less than a week, - for the city administration to take action on the issue that disturbs residents daily? Winter is coming... Will they act the same away in pro of human basic rights and save the homeless from the cold?

San Francisco, known for its technological innovations and economic prowess, has also grappled with a burgeoning homelessness issue for a long time. The APEC summit, which gathers leaders and delegates from across the Asia-Pacific region to discuss economic cooperation and development, has inadvertently shone a spotlight on the city's socio-economic disparities and ability to band-aid the cuts.

According to recent reports, the homeless population in San Francisco has surged, reaching alarming levels. Tent encampments have become a common sight on the city's streets, parks, and underpasses, creating a visible and poignant reminder of the challenges faced by those on the margins of society.

During 2021-2022, the city's homeless budget was about $1 Billion of Dollars. The Homeless population during this time was nearly 8.000 people. If we divide the funds, that is $125.000 Thousands of Dollars per Homeless. If there are a lot of people in the city living with much less, why there are still homeless people on the streets of San Francisco? To whom this money is going to?

Local advocacy groups and nonprofits have seized the opportunity presented by the international attention drawn by the APEC summit to call for urgent action. They argue that the same economic prosperity that attracts global leaders to the city should also be harnessed to address the pressing issue of homelessness.

City officials, caught between the desire to showcase San Francisco's success and the need to confront its social challenges, have pledged to redouble efforts to address homelessness. Mayor London Breed announced a plan that includes increased funding for affordable housing, mental health services, and addiction treatment programs, but again, not much progress on the statistics.

Critics argue that such measures may not be effective enough to solve the immediate crisis. They highlight the need for a multi-pronged approach that not only addresses the symptoms but also tackles the root causes of homelessness, such as career plans, inequal affordable way of living, and inadequate access to social services.

The juxtaposition of the APEC summit and the homelessness crisis has sparked a broader conversation about the social responsibility of such a prosperous city. As leaders discuss economic growth and international cooperation within the confines of the summit, the plight of San Francisco's homeless serves as a poignant reminder that true progress must be inclusive and leave no one behind. Development needs to happen in the city as well, but the crises and the problems were neglect.

The APEC summit's unintended spotlight on San Francisco's homelessness crisis has become a catalyst for change. It remains to be seen whether the city can turn this moment into a lasting commitment to creating a more equitable and compassionate society for all its residents, the landlords, tenants, and the homeless.

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